



# countdown

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## Atlantis' payload goes to Pad 39A on April 18



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

Atlantis arrived at Launch Pad 39A at approximately 9:10

a.m. Tuesday and was secured

on the launch pad at 11:17 a.m. Atlantis' 11-day mission is the final shuttle flight to Hubble. During five spacewalks, the shuttle's seven astronauts will install two new instruments, repair two inactive ones and replace other components.

The Science Instrument Command and Data Handling Unit that will be installed in the telescope arrived at KSC on Monday. The new unit will replace the one in Hubble that stopped working in September 2008, delaying the servicing mission. The payload is scheduled to go to the pad April 18.

The result of the upgrades will be six working, complementary science instruments to extend Hubble's operational lifespan through at least 2014.

### ◆ Constellation Update:

NASA will showcase its next-generation spacecraft and water landing testing, which will return humans to the moon, during two events in April. A full-size test mock-up of the Orion crew exploration vehicle will be on display at 10 a.m. today at the KSC Visitor Complex. NASA engineers and personnel will answer questions about the Orion crew module

and NASA's Constellation Program, which is developing America's new spacecraft for human exploration of the moon and farther destinations in our solar system.

The spacecraft mock-up traveled from the Naval Surface Warfare Center's Carderock Division in Bethesda, Md., to KSC, where it will be tested in open waters beginning April 6. The goal of the operation, dubbed the Post-landing Orion Recovery Test, or PORT, is to determine what kind of motion astronauts can expect after landing, as well as outside conditions for recovery teams. The experience will help NASA design landing recovery operations including equipment, ship and crew necessities.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2009/mar/HQ\\_09-068\\_Orion\\_PORT\\_Test.html](http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2009/mar/HQ_09-068_Orion_PORT_Test.html).

### ■ KEA Day and Location Change

— The presentation about U.S. and Russian spacesuits has changed to April 9 in the OSB II Conference Room. The presentation begins at 9 a.m. Make a note.

■ **Health Education** — The Health Education and Wellness Program, or HEWP, will set up the monthly health education table April 9 outside of the O&C Cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. HEWP staff members will disseminate information about

## Orion mock-up at KSC to be tested in open water Monday

gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD. The monthly packet covers GERD symptoms, characteristics, treatment and lifestyle modifications.

The packet is posted under the "Monthly Health Topics" section of the HEWP Web site at:

<http://hewp.ksc.nasa.gov/mthly.cfm>.

Hard copies of the packet also will be available at all medical and fitness facilities. If you or your department/organization would like to be added to the monthly packet hard copy distribution list, please call Kris Calderon at 867-3414.

■ **Family Day Update** — The Web site for the KSC Family Day on April 18 is <http://familyday.ksc.nasa.gov/>. Included are hours of operation (gates and viewing routes/sites), cafeteria hours and lists of sites open in the Launch Complex 39 Area and the Industrial Area. Maps also will be available soon. Please note the Apollo Saturn V Center will be not be open to Family Day attendees as it will be operational for Visitor Complex guests.

*Countdown* is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to [anita.l.barret@nasa.gov](mailto:anita.l.barret@nasa.gov). For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: [http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown\\_toc.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html).